

**St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Lancaster, Pennsylvania 17601
2019 Annual Congregation Meeting Minutes
Sunday, November 10, 2019 - 10:30 am, Sanctuary**

OPENING PRAYER was offered by Pastor Craig Ross.

CALL TO ORDER of the 2019 Annual Meeting by President Beth Soslow at 10:37 am.

Beth reminded those attending to use the microphones that are available to all. She also announced that a quorum has been reached by the number attending this morning. Beth reviewed the agenda for this morning's meeting projected on screen at the front.

APPOINTMENT OF TELLERS AND PARLIAMENTARIAN, by Beth Soslow

Sister Dottie Almoney and Jimmy Moshos will work with the Senior High Youth who will be the tellers and count any paper ballots. Leslie McCarthy will serve as Parliamentarian for today's meeting. There was a round of applause for all these persons assisting at today's meeting.

APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 11, 2018 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES, by Beth Soslow A motion to approve the minutes of the November 11, 2018 Annual Meeting was made by Beth Soslow and seconded by Bill Kopetz. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote. Copies of the Minutes are available for members to read.

DISCUSSION WITH THE PASTORS

Pastor Craig Ross Churches, like marriages, have a "seven year itch" sometimes, when they are renewed and strengthened. We embrace the need to change and thrive in our congregation.

Pastor Sarah Teichmann I arrived here the year after the Roy Oswald consultation. Long range goals were being developed. New Day worship was really developing at that time.

Pastor Craig We made the choice to adjust to choosing a new pastor with specific skills and who could help to develop our ministries. Also we hired a new Parish Administrator and made the Director of Music a full-time staff position.

Pastor Sarah We witnessed the development of community in many ways, both small and large. There was the growth of Local Social Ministry, lay members in pastoral care roles, the Volunteer Steward on staff was a unique and new creation.

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Pastor Craig Good stewardship helped to make all of these changes and new directions possible.

Pastor Sarah The last twelve to eighteen months we have been in that time of transition, the “seven year itch”; leading to what we see as a way to make a beautiful new thing here at St. Peter’s.

Pastor Craig We need a new heating, venting, and air conditioning system in our building and parking lot repairs outside are truly needed.

Pastor Sarah There are safety and educational needs here in our building.

Pastor Craig We need our members to join in this endeavor to address our needs. We are not taking part in the Intern Project as usual, so your staff can concentrate on this design and the changes. Thank you for your service, and your Time, Talent, and Treasure to make our mission possible.

Pastor Sarah Thanks be to God for leading us to new things. Ask tough and honest questions and do so in the spirit of Christ.

NOMINATIONS TO CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL, by Beth Soslow

Alan Swanson was nominated for a first term on Council for the years 2020 through 2022. A motion to approve this nomination was made by Greg Hand and seconded by Doug May. Greg Strausser was nominated for a second term on Council for years 2020 through 2022. A motion to approve this nomination was made by Ed LeFevre and seconded by Kathy Groff. Those presented for Council officers in 2020, are Beth Soslow, President; Adam Gegg, Vice President; Jill Emmert, Executive Secretary; and Mark Linn, Treasurer. Balloting was done by unanimous voice vote, with all candidates being elected to their new term or role on Council.

CONSTITUTION RATIFICATION UPDATE, by Leslie McCarthy

The Congregation unanimously ratified the changes to our Constitution which were previously approved at the June, 2019 Congregational Meeting. The changes were in Chapters 1, 11, 12 and 13 of St. Peter’s Constitution.

REPORT OF THE ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE, by Steve Gegg

A printed report of the funds within our Endowment was included in the Annual Meeting Booklet. Steve noted that we continue to partner with Fulton Financial on our investments.

Endowment Committee meets quarterly, and is looking to position our fund as the basis for a broader mission for St. Peter’s. Goals are to create income to benefit others, enhance

the financial stability of the church, relieve pressure n the regular budget, expand programs, become a pipeline for future gifts to the church. Some groups and programs that have benefitted from the Endowment are Council of Churches, the Veterans Park, Busoka Church, and training/education programs for our staff. John Kershner asked a question about borrowing from this fund and the cemetery fund to reduce our mortgage.

REPORT OF THE FINANCIAL COMMITTEE, by Geoff McCarthy, Chair, and Mark Linn, Treasurer

Geoff presented a slide showing a comparison of St. Peter's balance sheet, showing Sept-ember 30, 2018 versus September 30, 2019. The balance sheet is healthy, with giving up about 4%, good cash flow, and no borrowing necessary to meet expenses. Dick Shaefer asked if weekly giving included the gift of \$20,000 to fund the Volunteer Coordinator's work. Originally it had been included in that fund, but has since been moved to the designated gifts fund.

APPROVAL OF THE 2019-2020 PRESCHOOL BUDGET, by Geoff McCarthy

Income and expenses are stable. Steve Gegg asked about the record-keeping for the Preschool. Geoff responded that the school maintains its own separate balance sheet to show income and expenses. This year, an additional \$2,000 will be given to the church to pay for utility usage. Geoff made a motion to approve the Preschool budget for the year ending in June 2020, and Greg Strausser seconded it. This motion passed unanimously.

FEASIBILITY STUDY DISCUSSION, by Adrian Young

It was announced that a congregant has offered to pay the cost of the feasibility study for our planned Mission Campaign. Several companies will be asked to submit proposals for conducting the study. The study will let us know if the Campaign makes sense, and give us a more focused vision of our goals and direction. One goal of the Campaign is to build an on-going stream of funds to take care of specific expenses and needs that arise over time. Carol Shaefer asked whether this is a mission campaign with outward direction of funds, or a capital campaign with funds directed to internal needs? Adrian responded at this time the campaign is some of both, and member responses to the feasibility study will let us see if the congregation is ready to take bigger steps to meeting our Mission Plan in the future.

APPROVAL OF THE 2020 BUDGET/MISSION GIVING PLAN, by Geoff McCarthy

Geoff McCarthy presented the budget document for 2020. A total of \$1,350,815 are shown as our income and expenses for the next year. Questions asked included requests for more specific description of outreach expenses versus bricks and mortar costs, and a request for a narrative report on specifics about what the Mission Campaign will entail, what percentage is allocated for Local and Global Ministries, and whether in-house needs should be given emphasis. The proposed Budget for 2020 was passed by a voice vote.

APPROVAL OF HVAC SYSTEM REPLACEMENT EXPENDITURE, by Rob Morrison

Rob outlined various needs in the system to correct parts no longer working and parts that are clearly deficient at the present time. The control system in the part of the church where the main sanctuary is no longer works, the Augsburg Alley section has no heat, and winter may bring a complete malfunction of the system. All four rooftop units come at a cost of \$50,000 to \$70,000 each, so \$170,000-220,000 is needed now for repair. Quotes from three companies have been obtained, but work could not begin until January at earliest. The first repair must be to the control system in the main sanctuary area, followed by replacements of the rooftop units in the Spring of 2020. Questions about timing of the repairs and replacements, what kind of system is most appropriate, whether the entire system will need replacement eventually, consequences of the rust and mold present in some areas of the system, eventual cost of this work, and the Property Committee's opinion on this work were raised. Chair Rob Morrison stated definitively that the entire committee is in agreement on the needs and process for this repair work. A "Thank You" to the committee was voiced for their service and research on this large problem and possible solutions. A motion was made by Rob Morrison and seconded by Brendan Armitage that the committee's plan for the work and expense of \$170,000-220,000 be approved. The motion was passed by voice vote.

COMMITTEE REPORTS, by Beth Soslow

Reports of the committees of the congregation were submitted and presented in the meeting booklet. President Beth Soslow asked for a motion to approve the reports. Bill Kopetz made the motion and Brendan Armitage seconded that we approve committee reports as submitted. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

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OLD BUSINESS

No items of Old Business were raised by members.

NEW BUSINESS

No items of New Business were raised by members.

ADJOURNMENT WITH THE LORD'S PRAYER AT 12:17 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen L. Groff

Recording Secretary